INDULGENCIA PLENARIA

Anctissimus in x ho pater dominus noster. v.
Leo divina prouidentia papa decimus omnibus & singulis utriusque lexus 
super fidibus utilitibus ecclesiis.

Aprimis uspeiris dominice precedentes in mediae festum afferenceis usque ad 
occasum solis ipsius dominic. Et a primis vesperis uigilia. Afferentiam dani qui ut 
vesperis diei mercurii ante festu. Afferentiam usque ad occasum solis ipsius festuuitatis & ma 
nus adiutrices porrigentibus prob fabrice ecclesiis & consuetudinis. Sancte marie. Gorgone sa 
ceri cedis. Carmelitac. Caelestis plenarit. Indulgentiam pene & culpam. Tam pro de infernis 
quam pro uinis:

Pro contritis liest non confessis habentibus tamen propositum costiendi in quadragesim 
ma. Etiam pro absentibus.

Com absolutione & participatione omnium uteratum i breui cohitum 
Et com absorptione omnium criminum & cesserum.

Et a Utilibus etiam sedi apostolice referaturis iterque i cae domini memoratis eo deputate 
one confessorum ad libitum Commissarium et sub delegatoru pro ut i breui cohitum 
Com potestatem substituendi quae omnium jasuique in copia breuis apostolici uidere possunt 
que in manibus. Reuerendi Dominici titularis sita. Relicta est.
Translation

Plenary Indulgence

Pope Leo X, our most holy father and lord in Christ, grants by divine providence to each and everyone one of both sexes of the faithful in Christ who visit the church,

From the evening of the first Sunday immediately proceeding the feast of Ascension up to the sunset of the Sunday itself, and from the first vespers of the vigil of the Ascension, that is the vespers of the Wednesday before the feast of the Ascension, up to the evening of the festivities, for those lending helping hands to the builders of the church and convent of Saint Mary of the sacred Carmelite order in Gorgona. The plenary indulgence removes punishment and guilt: both on behalf of the dead and on behalf of the living:

It is valid for those who are contrite and for those who have not made a confession and yet have the intention of confessing, and also for those absent for absolution and for the exchange of all vows, if given in writing. And for absolution from all crimes and excesses. And also for failings and for which the apostolic seat has withheld the observance of the Lord’s Supper with the appointment of confessions, at the pleasure of the commissary and the delegation, if given in writing.

With the power of substitution regarding all things most compresensively that can be seen in the copy of the apostolic brief, which are are left in the power of the Lord’s reverent vicar or prelate.

Translation by Armin Siedlecki, PhD and Sarah Bogue, PhD

Description

This papal plenary indulgence, printed ca. 1515-1520, was issued in the name of Pope Leo X (1475-1521) to raise funds for work on the construction of a church and Carmelite convent (Santa Maria) on the island of Gorgona off the Tuscan coast. It was the sale of indulgences that had prompted Martin Luther to post his 95 Theses, which is generally seen as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Giacomo Mazzocchi, the printer of this indulgence used the same types in 1520 for the printing of Pope Leo’s bull Exsurge Domine, which called on Luther to retract 41 of his 95 theses or face excommunication.

(Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, MSS 445)